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Poland

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

New Avian Influenza H5N1 Outbreak in Poland 2007

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Report Highlights:

On December 8, 2007, the Veterinary Service announced a new outbreak of Highly Pathogenic (H5N1) Avian Influenza in central Poland. The outbreak was detected at a large laying hen farm in Mazowsze Province. Over 120,000 birds were culled and 100,000 eggs were destroyed by the Veterinary Service. The Ministry of Agriculture expects that the new outbreak will have a significant economic impact on the Polish poultry industry.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
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On December 8, 2007 the Polish Veterinary Service announced a fourth outbreak site of Highly Pathogenic (H5N1) Avian Influenza (AI) in Poland. The outbreak was detected at a laying hen farm in Karniszyn, near Zuromin in Mazowsze Province. The outbreak site is located 150 kilometers north west from Warsaw and 60 kilometers from the area where three previous outbreaks of AI were detected.

The AI outbreak took place on large egg production complex within an area of intensive poultry production. The Veterinary Service culled 120,000 birds, and destroyed 100,000 table eggs and 37 tons of poultry feed. The sanitary inspection is trying to identify wholesale customers who bought eggs from the affected farm within the last 21 days. The eggs from the affected farm, which were distributed to warehouses in the Olsztyn area and Wielkopolska Province, will be not recalled from the market. According to the veterinary and sanitary officials, consumption of eggs is safe but consumers should wash all table eggs with hot water and should eat only hard-boiled eggs.

The Veterinary Service implemented the standard sanitary measures. Quarantine procedures are in place: there is a 3 km protection zone, surrounded by a 10 km surveillance zone. The affected area is closed for traffic with an exception of local habitants. According to the Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer the new outbreak site is probably caused by wild birds. He believes that the new outbreak has no relation to the previous three outbreaks in Plock area. No human cases have been identified, but authorities have advised residents from the area to be vigilant with additional hygiene and sanitary measures.

At the press conference held on December 9, the Minister of Agriculture said the new AI outbreak may have significant economic implications for the Polish poultry industry because this area is a major poultry and egg producing region, unlike the previous outbreak area near Plock. So far, Polish authorities have already spent 650,000 USD to fight the AI outbreaks from earlier in December.

Please reference earlier GAINS reports PL7056:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200712/146293145.pdf>

and PL7057:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200712/146293177.pdf>

for information on the outbreaks in Poland December 1 and 5, 2007.